GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
ROLE OF PRIVATE COMPANIES IN EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Government in order to ensure supply of oil and natural gas in future;

(b) whether new sources for the same are being explored;

(c) the role of the private companies in exploring new sources; and

(d) the, State-wise, details of exploration of new sources during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): The Government is taking the following steps to meet the growing demand of oil and natural gas.

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the first four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts(PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks; the fifth round is underway.

(iii) To explore in new areas, specially in the deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in deeper layers of already producing fields.

(iv) To develop faster newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc.in producing areas.

(v) to acquire acreages abroad.

(vi) to explore alternative sources of hydrocarbon such as Coal Bed Methane. 16 PSCs for Coal Bed Methane exploration have been signed to date.

(vii) to tap alternate resources like Gas Hydrate, and Underground Coal Gasification.

(c): To attract more investments in the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector and expedite the exploration of Indian sedimentary

basins, exploration blocks under NELP are awarded based on international competititve bidding. Private companies bring in additional investments as well as advanced technogies and management practices in the E&P sector.

(d): During the last three years, 59 oil and gas discoveries were made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC), Oil India Ltd.(OIL) and private/joint venture companies. in the State of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Rajasthan, Tripura and off the coast of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.